## Express Mail No. EV 331421474 US 20459-112

Please Type a plus sign (+) inside this box -> +

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Inder the Paperwork Reduction Act of 199	5, no persons are required to respond to	o a collection of information unless it disp	lays a valid OMB control number.

oned the opposite the control of the			Complete if Known				
Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Application Number	10	81722	
, -	NFORMATION		··	Filing Date April 2, 2004			
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT			First Named Inventor	Masatake Nukui			
(use as many sheets as necessary)				Group Art Unit	2	882	
				Examiner Name	DAVID BRUCE		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	16C	T03012	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant	Date of Publication of	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages		
	No.	Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Of Cited Document	Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	or Relevant Figures Appear		
Dur	AA	6,650,726	B2	Sembritzki et al.	Nov. 18, 2003			
der	AB	6,292,578	B1	Kalvin	Sep. 18, 2001			
des	AC	6,201,888	B1	Kalvin	Mar. 13, 2001			
den	AD	6,125,193	A	Han	Sep. 26, 2000			
aver	AE	5,933,471	<i>A</i>	Kalvin	Aug. 3, 1999			
aron	AF	5,243,664	A	Tuy	Sep. 7, 1993			
alvi	AG	5,123,054	A	Hara et al.	Jun. 16, 1992			
den	AH	4,920,491	A	Eberhard et al.	Apr. 24, 1990			
am	AI	4,590,558	A	Glover et al.	May 20, 1986			
	AJ							
	AK							
	AL							
	AM							
	AN							

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS									
Examiner Initials*	Cite	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or	Date of Publication of	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages	T	
	No.1	Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>3</sup> (if known)	Applicant of Cited Document	Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	or Relevant Figures Appear		
aem	FA	Japan	2000- 083946		GE Yokogawa Medical Systems Ltd.	03-28-2000			
	FB								

OTHER PRIOR ART NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Indials*	Cite No.1	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the Items (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T²		
E					

Examiner Signature	Dan Thomas	Date Considered:	9/8/05	·

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Unique dilation designation number. <sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a checkmark here if English language Translation is attached.